

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JOHN DOE #1 et al.

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD H. RUMSFELD et al.,

Defendants.

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Civil Action No.: 1:03CV00707 (EGS)

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Declaration of Bridget Savage, Sergeant , USA

My name is SGT Bridget Savage (USA), and I am currently stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia. My husband, SGT (ret.) Gary Savage, is a 27 year-old Black male who was perfectly normal until he received his third anthrax vaccination in mid-December 2002.

My husband been hospitalized since 6 January 2003, first at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and then at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals in Richmond, Virginia and Washington, DC. The Army and the VA have diagnosed him with brainstem encephalitis, which the VA believes was possibly related to the anthrax vaccine.

Additionally, his 100 percent service-connected disability was based on a finding of paraplegia, loss of use of both hands, loss of bowel and bladder control, dysarthria, difficulty swallowing, and altered mental status. Currently, Gary is an in-patient at the Washington, DC, VA Hospital (Nursing Home Unit). He is competent, but requires 24 hour care and regular, extensive physical therapy. He was initially paralyzed along one side of his body, is still unable to walk and his speech is impaired. Gary has very limited

use of his hands and arms. He takes muscle relaxers for extreme spasms, and is also taking an anti-depressant due to the emotional effect his condition has had on him.

When he became paralyzed after his vaccination, the military hurriedly put him on the Temporary Disabled Retirement List (TDRL) and discharged him from Walter Reed Army Medical Center to a VA hospital with his condition unresolved. The Army reviewed Gary's case in October 2004 to determine if his status would be changed to permanent medical retirement. This was denied even though his acute neurological condition has lasted two years with little sign of improvement. There is no way that he will ever return to active duty, so I can only guess at the Army's motivation for denying him full medical retirement. We have to wait until 2006 for his case to be reviewed again.

My husband is the father of four children who he now has to watch grow up from a distance. I am still a Soldier and with the demands of the Army I am unable to care for him. The Army has accommodated me for the past two years, but I know that will soon come to an end and at that point it will become impossible for me to remain in the Service, employed and working toward a retirement, and also care for my husband. We got married in October 2002, and to this day have not lived together because of this tragedy. As it is, I have to drive from Petersburg, Virginia, where I am based to Washington, DC, to see my husband. I have to do this at my own expense and given the competing demands of the Army and being a mother, I cannot see my husband very often.

I am willing to help do whatever it takes so that what has happened to my husband, and the impact it has had on our lives and marriage, does not happen to other servicemembers. Soldiers are never told about the crippling and life-threatening disabilities associated with the anthrax vaccine. My husband and I will gladly turn his medical records over to the court to assist in an investigation. I implore the Court to force the Army and the Department of Defense to disclose what they know about the serious illnesses caused by the anthrax vaccine. I have heard about other neurological adverse reaction cases like my husband's and believe that DoD is covering them up.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, I declare under penalty that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 27th day of February, 2005.

/s/

Bridget Savage, Sergeant, USA

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